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WHAT SHOULD A MAN WANT?

"Tell me now, what should a man want
But to sit alone sipping his cup of wine?
I should like to have visitors come to discuss philosophy
And not to have tax-collectors coming to collect taxes;
My three sons married into good families,
My five daughters provided with steady husbands;
Then I could jog through a happy five-score years,
Craving no Cloud-ascent, no Resurrection.

Wang Chi—Seventh Century

IN A JADE CUP

Business men boast of their skill and cunning
But in Philosophy they are like little children.
Bragging to each other of successful depredations,
They forget to consider the ultimate fate of the body.
What should they know of the Master of Dark Truth
Who saw the wide world in a jade cup,
By illumined conception got clear of Heaven and Earth,
On the chariot of Mutation entered the Gate of Immutability?

Ch'en Tzu-ang—Seventh Century

ON THE BIRTH OF A SON

Families when a child is born
Hope it will turn out intelligent.
I, through intelligence